



U S C O N S U L A T E G E N E R A L – R E C I F E

ACS Newsletter

American Citizen Services

JULY 2016



With just two months until the start of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the U.S. Mission to Brazil is helping U.S. citizens prepare for a safe and successful stay in Rio de Janeiro and throughout Brazil. We invite you to explore and share the following resources containing essential travel information for visitors and residents:

[Olympics Fact Sheet](#): The latest travel information about Brazil specially designed for Olympics/Paralympics travelers, including details about the Brazilian visa waiver, health and safety precautions, event tickets, and more.

[American Citizen Services website](#): Information about services the Embassy and Consulates offer to U.S. citizens, including security and travel information. (cont. page 2)

[ACS Olympics Brochure](#): Print out this convenient brochure to have important American Citizen Services information on-hand while you're traveling.

And for the latest updates, connect with U.S. Mission Brazil on social media:

[USinRio Facebook Event](#): Let us know you're coming to Brazil for the Olympics/Paralympics! Add your "RSVP" so you'll have the latest news on the Games.

[@USCitsBrazil on Twitter](#): Follow Mission Brazil's Twitter for U.S. citizens living and traveling in Brazil.

[#USinRio Blog](#): All the practical (and fun!) details you need for your Olympics journey.

[Mission Brazil](#) and [Consulate General Rio de Janeiro](#) Facebook pages: Follow the U.S. Mission's Facebook pages for the latest Olympics news and security updates.



[USinRio Smartphone App](#): All the essential information you need to stay safe, plan your journey, and contact us during your time in Brazil. Available now for Android devices and soon in the Apple Store.

SMS Notifications: If you would like to receive important messages from U.S. Mission Brazil on your phone during your stay, send a message from your U.S. or local phone number to [optinrio@state.gov](mailto:optinrio@state.gov). The service will terminate after the conclusion of the Olympic Games.

These resources are designed to keep U.S. citizens informed and safe during the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We encourage you to use and share them with friends and family visiting or residing in Brazil.

Let the Games begin!

## Town Hall

The American Citizen Services unit at the U.S. Consulate General in Recife held a Town Hall last March with a total of 91 attendees. This event was unprecedented in the history of our Consulate – and the first town hall in 15 years. The event provided an opportunity for the American Community in the Northeast to learn about the diversity of services offered by the Consulate. The night started with remarks given by the Consul General, Richard Reiter and was followed by presentations from the Consulate's senior staff from various sections such as Consular, Public affairs, Commerce, Political and Economic, Security, and Management. The staff presented on their area of expertise and the lively audience participated by asking questions and making important comments.

During the event, the Consul General also recognized Major John William Buyers, a WWII U.S. Military Veteran who was stationed in Recife during the World War II. His son, John Buyers Jr, accompanied by his wife, Dayse Silva, received a plaque honoring his father.

The event was a true success. People came early and stayed late. As Consular Chief Michael Cathey quipped, "It really turned into a party – Recife style!"



The Consul General Richard Reiter with John Buyers Jr accompanied by his wife Dayse Silva



## Visiting Carpina



The American Citizen Services Unit (ACS) led a small team on an outreach trip to small town rural Carpina in the northeastern state of Pernambuco. The team provided passport and voting services to U.S. citizens, learned about the philanthropic work in the area, and delivered a presentation on diplomacy to 40 youth and seven educators from the International School of Carpina.

Ten American Citizens welcomed the Consular staff to their town with open arms and an agenda full of activities. The

Consular team started the morning by delivering a presentation in both English and Portuguese to 40 youth and seven educators on diplomacy and the services that the Consulate offers. Then U.S. and Brazilian representatives from *Living Stones* (a religious non-profit organization) and Thiago Moura, the founder of *Tênis Para o Futuro*, briefed the team on the social projects their organizations do in the surrounding rural towns. The social projects engage low income youth who are vulnerable to the crime and violence in the region from drug and gang activity by offering extracurricular activities. *Tênis Para o Futuro* has been featured on O Globo Sports, a major sports television program in Brazil.

The trip ended with a brief tour of the International School of Carpina, which was co-founded in 2006 by a Brazilian national and a U.S. citizen. It is a tuition-based school with more than 120 enrolled students ranging from pre-school to ninth grade. Over the past decade a strong missionary network between Carpina and Greenfield, Indiana, provided sufficient funds to establish and staff the school. Soon, U.S. missionaries working there extended their services to *Living Stones*, which helps 60 at-risk youth from the neighboring towns of Cajueiro, Claro, Guadalajara, Mussurepe, and Lagoa de Itaenga. The missionaries also partner with *Athletes in Action* (an NGO that focuses on reaching at risk youth through sports) and *Tênis Para o Futuro* to offer sports opportunities to at-risk youth as well.

## Political and Economic News

A budding partnership on renewable energy is forming between the northeastern Brazilian state of Pernambuco and California. During March 7-11, a delegation led by Pol/Econ Officer Paloma Gonzalez and Pernambuco Secretary of Environment Sergio Xavier travelled to California on a week-long renewable energy and water conservation program. The trip was a follow-up to California Independent Systems Operator board member Angelina Galiteva's visit to Pernambuco as part of Mission Brazil's and the State Department's Bureau of International Information Program's Climate Partners Campaign. The Pernambuco delegation had a full agenda, including visiting four solar companies, several water agencies, UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, Solar City and Tesla, and meeting with members of the California Public Utilities Commission, Energy Commission, and the Secretary for Environmental Protection. The visit generated several potential partnerships between Pernambuco and U.S. companies, enriched the discussion on renewable energy with Brazil, and set the stage for a more robust partnership between the states of Pernambuco and California.



Pernambuco Delegation with Pol/Econ Officer Paloma Gonzalez and California ISO board member Angelina Galiteva at Berkshire's solar plant in Lancaster, CA – the largest solar installation in the world

To find out more about the State Department's Climate Partners Campaign visit: <https://climate.america.gov/>

## ELECTION 2016



**D**id you know that we can help you file your absentee ballot? Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States at the time of an election are eligible to vote absentee in any election for federal office. Some states even allow overseas voters to vote in state elections. To confirm eligibility and residency requirements, contact your state or territory's chief election administrative office or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The FVAP website makes voting absentee easy.

You can drop off your voter registration requests, absentee ballot requests, and completed absentee ballots at the U.S. Consulate General Recife for delivery to your local election official in the United States. You do not need to make an appointment with us to do so. The U.S. Government offers this service to U.S. Citizens living overseas to make absentee voting as easy as possible. Any U.S. Citizen can drop off the mail items listed above and the we will send them via Diplomatic Pouch to the United States Postal Service (USPS) in Virginia. The mail will then enter the USPS system. It will take approximately three weeks for the mailed item to reach your local election official. You must include proper domestic postage and complete the "to" and "from" addresses on the envelopes. If the envelope says postage paid on it, then no additional postage is necessary.

Voting for candidates for federal offices does not affect your federal or state tax liability.

Questions? Please email us at [voterecife@state.gov](mailto:voterecife@state.gov).



## USEFUL LINKS:

Travel Warnings & Advisories: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

Registration with the Consulate General: [step.state.gov](http://step.state.gov)

Brazilian Federal Police: [www.dpf.gov.br](http://www.dpf.gov.br)

Absentee Voting Information: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

Federal Benefit Information: <http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA>

Social Security Administration: <http://www.ssa.gov>

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

SEPTEMBER 5 — Labor Day (US)

SEPTEMBER 7 — Independence Day (BR)

OCTOBER 10 — Columbus Day (US)

OCTOBER 12 — Our Lady Aparecida (BR)

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